

Minnesota Board on Aging



April 23, 2005


The Honorable Gil Gutknecht
425 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D C 20515

Dear Representative Gutknecht:

The Minnesota Board on Aging supports the key principles embodied in HR 328 and we applaud your efforts to enact "The Pharmaceutical Access Act of 2005."
The bill would:

- Allow the importation of prescription drugs only if the drugs and facilities where such drugs are manufactured are from permitted countries with a pharmaceutical infrastructure that is substantially equivalent or superior to the USA and are approved by the Food and Drug Administration.
- Require exporters register with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and make places of business and records available for on-site inspections.
- Prohibit drug companies from using tactics that would stop importation.
- Allow personal importation only if the drug is for personal or family use in quantities that do not exceed a 90 day supply.
- Require the FDA to list all approved exporters on the FDA website and through a toll-free number.
- Require that all drugs imported that do not use anti-counterfeit technology labeling and packaging be tested to ensure authenticity.
- Require the chain of custody be displayed on all packaging.
- If the Secretary of HHS discovers a pattern of counterfeit or non-permitted products, the agency must suspend importation of that specific drug, but can reinstate registration once the violation has been corrected.
- Require all pharmaceuticals use counterfeit resistant technologies that are visible to the naked eye such as blister packs and package seals.

Sincerely,


Jeanette Metz,
Chair

cc. Minnesota Congressional Delegation

444 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-3843
Phone: 651-296-2770
Toll Free: 1-800-882-6262
FAX: 651-297-7855
www.mnaging.org